

Alumni Columns

Magazine

Winter 2002

Northwestern State University of Louisiana



Celebrating Christmas

Dr. Chris Maggio, '85
Director Alumni Affairs



Fellow Northwestern Graduates and Friends:

Talk on Old Normal Hill is still buzzing from our recent Homecoming activities and the surprise visit from TV superstar, Oprah Winfrey. Oprah made a surprise visit to the home of NSU alumnus Peggy Plunkett, after Peggy had invited Oprah to Natchitoches while attending her television show.

Unknown to Peggy (and with the help of NSU alumnus Robert Kelley and his wife, Nancy), Oprah flew into Natchitoches on her private jet and showed up on Peggy's doorstep. Her visit quickly became public knowledge in Natchitoches, and before the day was over Peggy and Oprah became the grand marshals in our annual NSU Homecoming parade. Needless to say, our students, faculty, staff and alumni were shocked and excited to see this major star and our newborn local star leading the event.

After a follow-up visit to Chicago by Plunkett and a Natchitoches/NSU delegation for the taping of the show that portrayed Oprah's surprise visit, our town and university are still basking in the national spotlight. Oprah reiterated to a national audience several points that we already know, that Northwestern State University is "a wonderful university" and Natchitoches is the "best little town in the U.S.A."

We would like to give a huge Northwestern State University "thank you" to Billy and Peggy Plunkett and Robert and Nancy Kelley for the small gestures that suddenly thrust our Homecoming activities into the national spotlight. The phones were ringing at the Natchitoches Tourist Commission and hundreds of e-mails were received because of the exposure. Because of the close relationship between NSU and Natchitoches, this opportunity will expose the city and university to people from all over the U.S. and will help both in ways we have not imagined.

Furthermore, we would like to acknowledge the many alumni who made student recommendations and assisted in our student recruitment efforts. Your hard work and assistance has paid off as we enjoyed another record enrollment at NSU this Fall semester, surpassing 10,000 enrolled students for the first time in the history of our university.

We hope that each and everyone one of you have a Happy Holiday season. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible as we travel this upcoming spring to your city hosting Northwestern alumni events. In the future, we are also looking to plan alumni events in new areas. If you know of several Northwestern alumni near your hometown and would like to plan an event, please contact us.



About the cover: The Vienne family posed for NSU Photographer, Gary Hardamon, at Kaffie-Frederick's Christmas display in downtown Natchitoches. Standing are: (left) Marti ('82), Mike ('83). Seated are the children (left) Margaret, Patick, Michael, and Liz. Hardamon is pictured with his back to the camera.

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NSU ALUMNI OFFICERS

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 Shreveport, 1955, 1960
 Vice President.....Jimmy Williams
 Winnfield, 1993
 Secretary-Treasurer.....Mike Sawrie
 Alexandria, 1972
 Executive Director.....Dr. Chris Maggio
 Natchitoches, 1985, 1991

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 F. Allen Horton Jr....New Iberia, 1957, 1962
 Adrian Howard.....Arlington, Texas, 1989
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 Bryant Lewis.....Haynesville, 1958
 Carroll Long.....Tyler, Texas, 1970
 David Morgan.....Austin, Texas, 1973
 K. Michael Sawrie.....Alexandria, 1972
 Dr. B.L. Shaw.....Shreveport, 1955, 1960
 Glenn Talbert.....Shreveport, 1964
 Ginger Wiggins.....Jackson, Miss., 1986
 Jimmy Williams.....Winnfield, 1993
 Matt Koury.....Leesville, 1995

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Stacie Cosby.....Alexandria
 SGA President

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Celebrating Christmas at NSU & around the world



Karl and Linda Moore spent four Christmases touring in Europe with their son Scott and daughter Karla while living in Belgium. Shown are the Moores visiting Rome while spending the holidays in Italy.

The Christmas Festival, Christmas Gala and the Christmas lights quickly become a tradition to students at NSU. They will remain a fond memory to each alumnus when celebrating the holidays.

Along with those memories, former students begin new traditions of their own, sometimes mixing in part of another culture's celebrations. Two Northwestern alumni and one NSU student share how they merged old traditions with new.

Annika Sjoberg

Annika Sjoberg was an exchange student from Sweden who attended NSU in 1986 and 1987. Her year in Louisiana was her first trip to the United States. During her stay in America, she spent the Christmas holidays traveling the country, visiting Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver and Rochester, and spent New Year's Eve in New York.

One annual celebration that Sjoberg took part in was the Natchitoches Christmas Festival.

"I didn't spend Christmas in Natchitoches," she said. "But of course I remember the Christmas Festival."

Celebrating Christmas at NSU &

Now that Sjoberg is back home in Sweden, she **Karl Moore** spends Christmas with her parents, brothers and their families.

"In Sweden the 'big' day for celebration is Christmas Eve," Sjoberg said. "It's during that day that Santa Claus, 'Jultomten', shows up here, but not through the chimney. He usually knocks on the door and brings a big sack of gifts."

Early on Christmas Eve Day, Sjoberg's family sits down to a traditional Swedish Christmas dinner of pickled herring, potatoes, vodka, roaster ham and Swedish meatballs.

"The afternoon starts a very strange Swedish Christmas tradition, I think it has been going on for at least 35 years," said Sjoberg. "At the same time every year, 3 p.m. on Christmas Eve, we watch Donald Duck. Swedish television has a Disney show every year. It's always something from the new movie, but also a lot of short cartoons with Donald Duck – the same ones year after year. It's one of the most popular shows every year."

One American tradition that Sjoberg has taken with her to Sweden is decorating the Christmas tree.

"I just love decorating our Christmas tree, and I think our tree is more American looking than Swedish," she said. "It is so full of things, you can hardly see the green."

Sjoberg now lives with in Stockholm and is married to Per. She has two children. She is the manager and part owner in one of Sweden's biggest public relations firms in the city, which specializes in analysis and strategy.

For the past four years, Karl Moore, a 1960 graduate, has spent Christmas traveling through Europe. He and his wife Linda lived in Brussels, Belgium and celebrated the holidays adventure-seeking around the continent.

In 2000, the Moores spent Christmas in Rome with their two children. The trip was especially exciting as it was the Jubilee Year, and they had a chance to see Pope John Paul II conduct Mass.

"Just mingling and strolling in the city was a treat in itself as the little streets and alleyways were brimming with the excitement of the season," said Moore. "Christmas just doesn't get any better than that."

In 1998, the Moores spent Christmas in Normandy, France and the "City of Lights," Paris.

"It is called 'The City of Lights' and during the holiday season, it is very evident why that is so," said Moore.

Though the Moores were in Europe, they paused to reflect on being American. They



Around the World

drove down to Utah and Omaha beaches and visualized the landings that our soldiers made on D-Day.

"We arrived at the American Cemetery at Omaha Beach at the end of the day, just as the flag was lowered and 'Tags' was being played, followed by chimes playing 'Battle Hymn of the Republic' and 'God Bless America.' What a tribute to the fallen soldiers who lay buried there so far away from home, yet so revered here in this magnificent and well-maintained resting ground. Not one of us had a dry eye!"

"What a wonderful reminder for our children and for us of the sacrifices made by those young men and women who gave their all to protect us and our country from Hitler and the Nazi regime. The freedom to visit this place, to worship as we wish, and all the freedoms that we all enjoy, were made possible because of their sacrifices. Realizing how God has blessed us and our nation, we gave thanks for the true meaning of Christmas."

This year, the Moores have moved back to South Carolina. They will be celebrating with their children at home. Moore retired from International Paper in January. Karl and Linda live in Greer, S.C.

David Simpson

David Simpson, a current journalism student at NSU, has celebrated Christmas in his home country of Scotland, in England and in Texas and Florida.

"We lived in Scotland until I was 10," said Simpson. "We celebrated with fireworks, and big trees with lots of presents. We have a lot of family reunions around Christmastime."

Simpson's family Christmas tradition involved one of a giving nature. They always found a stranger with nowhere to celebrate Christmas and brought them into their home for dinner.

"One year we found someone from the youth hostel," said Simpson. "And another year we took in a student from overseas."

When he was 10, Simpson's family moved to Texas.

"In Britain, the day after Christmas is Boxing Day, where people take time to reflect on the holiday," he said. "Boxing Day became shopping day when we moved to Texas."

Later the family moved to England where Simpson's mother keeps one American tradition.

"Now that my mother lives in England, she puts lights on the house," he said. "She has the only lit house on the street, actually in town. People drive by to look at it."

Simpson will spend this Christmas holiday with his family in France, where his sister lives. III

1980 Student Union Christmas windows.



Enrollment

tops 10,000 for first time in Northwestern's history

For the first time in Northwestern State University's 118-year history, the institution has recorded an enrollment of more than 10,000 students. The University has recorded an enrollment of 10,159 students for the fall 2002 semester, an increase of 744 students or 7.9 percent over last fall's total of 9,415. The year-to-year increase in enrollment is the largest at Northwestern in 10 years.

"Achieving an enrollment of more than 10,000 students is a milestone for Northwestern State University," said President Dr. Randall J. Webb. "Over the past six years, we have placed a high priority on taking care of our students and ensuring that they receive the best possible education. The steady increase in enrollment is validation of the those efforts."



Northwestern increased enrollment on its main campus in Natchitoches as well as the Leesville/Fort Polk campus. The student population remained steady at its Shreveport campus, which houses the College of Nursing. The University also had more students taking classes electronically and in its graduate school.

The number of traditional first-time freshmen coming directly to Northwestern from high school increased by 6.7 percent from 1,641 to 1,751. Northwestern also increased its student retention rate from last year.

"Our increase in enrollment is the result of efforts by faculty and staff from throughout the University," said director of enrollment services Ina Agnew. "New initiatives by each college and academic department to attract and retain students were successful. Each department was willing to attend events and do what was needed to tell prospective students about Northwestern."

NSU also had an increase of 18 percent in transfer students from other institutions.

"We believe strongly in the quality of academic programs at Northwestern," said Webb, "The university's strong reputation is spreading and that is helping us attract good students and keep them here until they graduate." III

NSU Foundation playing active role in University's continued growth

More than 250 students at Northwestern State University will benefit from scholarships made available through the NSU Foundation this year.

The NSU Foundation is the umbrella organization for the NSU Alumni Association, NSU Athletic Association and the Foundation itself. Total Foundation assets are \$5.5 million with a total endowment of more than \$3 million.

"Because of the NSU Foundation, Northwestern can do things it would not be able to do otherwise," said Director of Institutional Advancement Tony Gustwick. "The Foundation helps provide scholarships for students, additional funding for faculty and support for departments and groups at the university."

The NSU Foundation is a non-profit organization that invests and manages private assets that have been donated to the University. The NSU Foundation is responsible for coordinating all fund raising to benefit the University. Its purpose is to identify, cultivate and solicit major gifts. Donors can make gifts to the University through the Foundation in a number of ways including joining the NSU President's Council, planned giving or establishing endowed scholarships, professorships and chairs.

President's Council

The NSU President's Council is a one way to donate unrestricted tax-deductible contributions of \$1,000 per year to fund the numerous requests of the Foundation to fund academic projects and special items.

"Another way individuals or companies can help Northwestern is through major gifts," said Gustwick. "These major gifts provide the University with a way to increase the size of its endowment, acquire additional equipment and resources and increase student and faculty support through endowed scholarships, endowed professorships and chairs."

Raising additional funds for scholarships helps Northwestern attract and keep top students who help the university grow and prosper.

"Attracting top students is critical for Northwestern," said Gustwick. "The staff in the Division of Student Affairs as well as all of the faculty and staff at NSU work diligently to get good students here. Sometimes, even with financial aid and other university scholarships, the availability of privately funded scholarships can make a big difference."

Endowed Scholarships

Gustwick said endowed scholarships could be started with as little as \$10,000. These scholarships will be permanent. Donors can name the scholarship and set up the criteria under which it is awarded.

Another way for donors to assist Northwestern is through planned giving which enables a donor to make a legacy gift through such methods as bequests, gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, life insurance, appreciated property and other means.



Endowed Professorship or Chair

Those wishing to help Northwestern continue to grow can also make donations to establish an endowed professorship or an endowed chair at the University. Endowed professorships are set up with a \$60,000 donation, which is matched with \$40,000 from the Board of Regents' Support Fund. A gift of \$600,000 can set up an endowed chair which is matched with \$400,000 from the Board of Regents Support Fund to create a \$1 million endowment.

"The establishment of endowed chairs and professorships is an important step in continuing to enhance Northwestern's academic reputation," said Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Thomas A. Burns. "Endowed chairs allow the University to attract scholars with national and international reputations. The establishment of endowed professorships gives our faculty the opportunity to conduct valuable professional research. These enhancements benefit our students who are learning from scholars who are on the cutting edge in their respective field."

Northwestern has three endowed chairs, one each in the College of Business and Department of Journalism and a pledged chair in the College of Education. The University also has 22 endowed professorships worth \$2.2 million.

For more information on the NSU Foundation, contact Gustwick or Sharon Sampite' at (318) 357-4414. III



Winner's for the Fall 2002 Alumni Columns "Looking Back" Section Demon Dazzler Picture:

1. Sandy Aymond
2. Dolly Dupree
3. Diane Obannon
4. Donnie Choate
5. Wenona Walter ('97)



Brent receives Distinguished Service Award

Bill Brent has been named the Recipient of the 2002 President's Distinguished Service Award at Northwestern State University. Brent is director of the Mrs. H.D. Dear, Sr. and Alice Estelle Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts, director of bands and an associate professor of music at Northwestern.



Bill Brent (left) recieved the President's Distinguished Service Award from Dr. Randall Web (right) durring Northwestern's homecoming banquet.

"Bill Brent is one of the people that makes Northwestern special," said NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb. "The 'Spirit of Northwestern' Marching Band is one of the best in the country and creates pride in supporters of the university each time it performs. Under his leadership, the Mrs. H.D. Dear, Sr. and Alice Estelle Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts has brought prestige to Northwestern and enriched the Natchitoches community."

Brent has been at Northwestern for 19 years. In that time, he has built one of the best marching band programs in the South, increasing the number of members from 48 to more than 300. He has also served as conductor of the NSU Wind Symphony, which has been chosen to perform at the College Band Directors National Association Southern Regional Conference.

"I was shocked and humbled to learn I would receive this honor," said Brent. "There are many people at Northwestern who work extremely hard and deserve this honor before me."

Under Brent's leadership, the former Department of Creative and Performing Arts was designated as a School, due to its growth and reputation throughout the region. The School has received more than \$1.8 million in private scholarship funds, more than \$1 million in grants and has been the recipient of two endowed professorships.

The NSU Theatre has gained a strong reputation as one of the best undergraduate programs in the South. Graduates have moved into top graduate programs in theatre and are working professionally across the country. The Natchitoches-Northwestern Symphony is a joint effort of the university and the community. Natchitoches is one of the smallest communities in the United States to have a regularly performing symphony orchestra. The NSU Jazz Orchestra has performed with artists including Maynard Ferguson, Ellis Marsalis and Byron Stripling.

Northwestern's Chamber Choir has performed at Carnegie Hall. Vocal performance students have regularly won honors in statewide and regional competitions. The university and community also benefit from an active visual arts program. Visual arts faculty exhibit works in juried competitions throughout the country and students present their work in campus art galleries.

Brent is quick to credit the School's faculty with helping each program develop a strong reputation. He said the faculty is willing to work closely with students to develop their individual talent.

"A successful program in the arts demands hands-on training," said Brent. "Students work closely with our faculty who spend the time necessary to help them."

A family atmosphere extends to the band program, which draws students with a variety of academic majors.

"The best recruiters for the band are the band students," said Brent. "They genuinely care about one another and that helps us recruit students and keep them here."

Past recipients of the President's Distinguished Service Award include E. Loneta Graves, Dr. Hiram F. Gregory, Elise P. James, Mildred Moore and Dr. Ernest O. "Slim" Howell. III



Faculty contributions recognized at NSU

NSU faculty members make countless contributions to the Northwestern State University and their individual colleges. Each year, six are selected by their peers to be honored for their efforts. This year's recipients of Northwestern State University's Excellence in Teaching Awards were recognized at the annual Homecoming banquet.



This year's recipients of NSU's Excellence in Teaching Awards were recognized during the Homecoming 2002 activities. Those faculty members and their respective colleges are: Back row: Dr. James L. McCorkle, College of Liberal Arts and Dr. Thomas M. Hall, College of Science and Technology; Front row: Dorothy Stone Maziarz, College of Nursing, Barbara Russell, College of Business and Dr. Linda E. Roach, College of Education.

Those faculty members and their respective colleges are: Dr. James L. McCorkle, College of Liberal Arts; Dr. Linda E. Roach, College of Education; Dr. Thomas M. Hall, College of Science and Technology; Barbara Russell, College of Business; and Dorothy Stone Maziarz, College of Nursing.

McCorkle has been a member of the History faculty at NSU since 1966. He served as associate professor for five years and assistant professor for eight years.

He earned his bachelor's degree from Alabama Polytechnic Institute, his master's degree from University of Mississippi and his doctorate from University of Mississippi.

McCorkle has served as president of the NSU chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, president of the Faculty Senate and chair of the Graduate Dean Search Committee for the University.

His professional memberships include Southern Historical Association, Agricultural History Society, Louisiana Historical Association, Mississippi Historical Society, North Louisiana Historical Association and U.S. Naval Institute.

McCorkle's awards and honors include the Outstanding Educator of America Award and the Willie D. Halsell Award awarded by the Mississippi Historical Society for the best article in *Journal of Mississippi History*.

Roach has been associate professor of education since 1999. She prior, served as assistant professor for eight years.

She earned her bachelor's degree from Northwestern State University, and her master's and her doctorate degrees from Louisiana State University.

Roach has served on the Graduate Cabinet, as Phi Mu Fraternity Faculty Advisor and as the coordinator for the Practitioner Teacher Program.

Her professional memberships include American Society of Clinical Pathologists, National Science Teachers Association, Louisiana Science Teachers Association, National Association for Research in Science Teaching, American Association for Physics Teachers, School Science and Mathematics Association and Louisiana Academy of Sciences.

Roach's awards and honors include Who's Who in American Education, Outstanding Greek Advisor and U.S. Professor of the Year Nominee.

Hall has been with the Department of Engineering Technology since 1995 and was recently promoted to full professor.

He earned a bachelor's degree from United States Military Academy, a master's from University of Utah, a Master of Science in electrical engineering from Stanford, a degree of engineer from Stanford and a doctorate from NSU.

Hall has served as chair of the University Resource Allocation Committee, member of the University Admissions, Credits and Graduation Council and faculty advisor of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Student Chapter.

His professional memberships include the Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology Department Head's Association, Phi Kappa Phi, American Society of Engineering Education, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and the Retired Officers' Association.

Hall's awards and honors include the Dean's Scholar Award, and the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi from the University of Utah, the Legion of Merit and the Purple Heart from the U.S. Army.

Russell, a certified computing professional, has been an instructor of computer information systems since 1999.

She earned her bachelor and master's degrees from American Technological University.

She has been published in the *Journal of Information Systems Education*, *Decision Sciences Institute Proceedings* and *Burgess International Group, Inc.*

She has done consulting with Schrek & Associates and has served as coordinator at System Development Group working with FMC and their computer needs.

Russell has been awarded Who's Who in America's Teachers.

Maziarz has been an assistant professor of nursing since 1999.

She earned her bachelor's degree from Emory University and her master's degree from Texas Woman's University.

Her professional memberships include the Louisiana State Nurses Association, American Nurses Association, Sigma Theta Tau International, Beta Chi Chapter Sigma Theta Tau International, Wound Ostomy Continence Nursing Association and Ark-La Tex WOCON.

Her awards and honors include Nurse of the Year and Educator of the Year.

III



Looking Back

For more than 25 years, NSU was part of the Natchitoches Christmas scene with the tradition of window paintings. The Student Union and Iberville dining hall were transformed into palettes as nearly 20 campus organizations painted a Christmas mural in each of the large paned windows. The tradition was a way for the school to become a part of the City of Natchitoches' celebration of the holidays, as locals brought their children to view the spectacular paintings.

The tradition of the post card-like paintings began in 1968, when it was sponsored by the SUGB and continued through the mid-90's. III



1993
Student
Union
Christmas
windows



1983
Student
Union
Christmas
windows

The College of Education inducts new members into The Hall of Distinguished Educators

Northwestern State University is known for going over and beyond the extra mile in producing and preparing well-equipped teachers and leaders. The Hall of Distinguished Educators recognizes alumni from the College of Education for their years of service in the field of education.

This year's inductees are: Patricia Wiggins Blaize, Morgan Dunnam Ford, Frank M. Lampkin, Billy Montgomery, Dr. Leonard D. Ponder and Dr. B.L. "Buddy" Shaw.

Blaize is currently teaching for St. Charles Parish Schools. She is certified in the following certification areas: secondary English and Spanish, reading specialist, gifted certification and supervisor of student teachers. Blaize is the first nationally certified teacher. She has been a workshop presenter in the following areas: writing strategies, reading in the content areas and L.E.A.P. strategies.

Ford has the longest tenure as a principal of a full-sized school in Rapides Parish. He is currently in his 50th year as principal. During his tenure, Ford has been principal of schools where historic events have occurred in Rapides Parish: first class for mentally retarded students, first class for hearing impaired students, first African-American student enrolled in previously all Caucasian school and he was principal of a pilot school for LTIP-LTAP.

Lampkin served as the principal of Bossier High School from 1956-1980. In addition to his career, Lampkin has had a very active civic life. In 1952, Lampkin served as chairman on a committee of 100 to develop the YMCA Bossier branch. Since 1954, Lampkin has been an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Bossier City. He served on the Bossier City Recreation Board from 1957-1974.

Montgomery has served as a Louisiana State Representative for District 9 since 1988. After graduating from Northwestern in 1959, he taught and coached for 10 years winning two state championships in 1968 and 1969. He was assistant principal of Houghton High School from 1970-1982 and served as principal from 1983-1988. Among his many accomplishments, he was honored as LAE's "Distinguished Legislator" in 1989

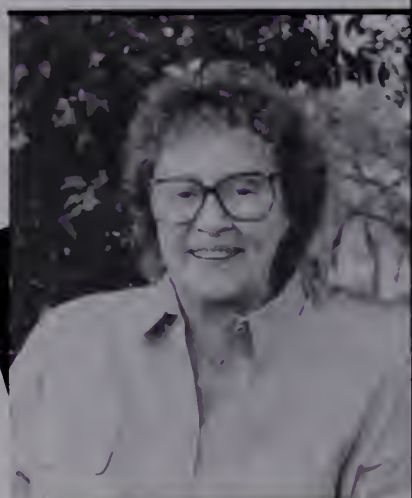


The College of Education at NSU has inducted six alumni into its Hall of Distinguished Educators. This year's inductees are: Back row from left to right: Dr. B.L. "Buddy" Shaw, Frank M. Lampkin and Dr. Leonard Ponder; front row from left to right: Morgan Dunnam Ford, Betty Wiggins Blaize and Rep. Billy Montgomery.

and was inducted into the Louisiana High School Coaches and Administrators Hall of Fame in 1991. Also, Montgomery was awarded the NSU Nth Degree in 1995.

Ponder is Professor Emeritus of the Department of Health and Kinesiology at Texas A&M University. In 1990 and 2001, he was awarded the Thomas A. and Joan Read Chair of Disadvantaged Youth. This was the first chair in the College of Education at Texas A&M University. Established upon his retirement, the Leonard D. Ponder Chair for Research and Development was established in recognition of his lifetime achievements.

Shaw has served as a Louisiana State Representative for District 6 since 1995. After graduating from Northwestern in 1955, he taught and became principal at several different schools in northern Louisiana. In 1969, Shaw represented the state of Louisiana for Adult Education at the United States International University in San Diego, California. He served as principal of C. E. Byrd High School from 1970-1986. During that time, Shaw led the efforts to establish a Math Science Magnet at C. E. Byrd High School. In 1993, he became president of the Caddo Parish School Board. In 1994, he became president of the Louisiana School Boards Association. III



Elise P. James
1938-2002

Funeral services for Doris Elise Pierson James, 64, were held Thursday, November 14, 2002 in Natchitoches. James fought a lengthy, courageous battle with Parkinson's disease.

A native and resident of Natchitoches, James gave a lifetime of service and support to her alma maters, St. Mary's High School and Northwestern State University. Following a nearly 20-year career as an assistant professor of business at Northwestern she was named director of the University's alumni affairs office as well as the director of the NSU Foundation. In her tenure she increased alumni support for the University by thousands and established the first endowed professorship for Northwestern. At her retirement, James was credited for cultivating over \$2 million in gifts to Northwestern from its alumni.

Following her retirement, the University named James to its Long Purple Line, the highest honor bestowed on an alumnus. She was also the first recipient of the President's Distinguished Service Award. Additionally, the College of Education named James to its Educators Hall of Fame, she was awarded the Nth Degree by President Robert Alost, and most recently the Campus Women's Organization established the Elise P. James Campus Women's Scholarship in her honor.

James was a member of several local and state organizations, and she was a member of the Church of the Immaculate Conception.

She is survived by her husband of 46 years, McCaulley Mercer James Sr.; her sons, William Henry James, McCaulley Mercer James Jr., and Dr. David Malcolm James and his wife Anita Bennett James; her daughters, Doris James Halliburton and her husband, Chuck; and Nancy Gail James; her grandchildren, McCaulley Mercer James III, Casie Jo James, Caitlin Elizabeth James, William Chase James and Daniel David James. She is also survived by her sister, Gail Pierson Cromwell of Temple, NH.

James was preceded in death by her parents, Dr. William Henry Pierson and Doris Henry Pierson, both of Natchitoches.

The family requests that memorials be made to St. Mary's Foundation (Endowment Fund), 1101 E. Fifth St., Natchitoches, LA 71457; or Northwestern State University Foundation (Elise P. James Campus Women's Scholarship Account), Natchitoches, LA 71497.



Alumni Events



The Long Purple Line recipients and representatives Bobby Hebert ('83), Raymond Strother, Ms. Emily Wofford (representing Dr. A.A. Fredericks), Peggy Ragus (representing Charlie Ragus), Cheryl Wilson ('72) and John Williams (representing Judge R.B. Williams), pose after their induction ceremony.

The NSU Foundation is a non-profit organization that invests and manages private assets that have been donated to the University. The NSU Foundation is responsible for coordinating all fund raising to benefit the University. Its purpose is to identify, cultivate and solicit major gifts. The NSU Foundation members are back row from left to right are Tony Gustwick, Sam Holland, Marvin Watkins ('50), Ed Dranguet ('61), Dr. Randall Webb, Lee Waskom ('86), Robert Manning ('48) and Dr. B.L. Shaw ('55). Front row from left to right are Dan Chase ('57), Melba Steeg ('44), Sadie Newell, Charles Knicely ('71) and Greg Burke.



Alton Townsend ('39), Elizabeth Gunn ('38), Leola Loftin ('39) and Bill Lofton ('38) enjoyed visiting at the WWII Era Reunion during Homecoming festivities.



WWII Era Reunion participants pose with Miss Natchitoches City of Lights, Jenny Corder (2nd from left) during their Homecoming reception. From left: Nate Durham ('46), Corder, Ralph McFarland ('47), Albert Gerson ('43), Jerrie Summons Jantz, and Bob Jantz ('48).



WWII Era Reunion coordinator Theophile Scott ('43) (left), relaxes with Albert Gerson ('43) during the celebration.



David Wright ('80), NSU Athletic Director Greg Burke and Stuart Wright ('77) traveled to Athens, Ga. to show their NSU pride and support the NSU Demon football team.

The NSU Alumni Board members meeting during Homecoming 2002 were: back row from left to right: Joe Cunningham Jr. ('84), Leonard Endris ('74/'75), Mike Sawrie ('72), Jerry Brungart ('69/'71), Glen Talbert ('64), Tommy Chester ('69), Carroll Long ('70) and Allen Horton ('57/'62). Front row from left to right: Gail Jones ('81/'98), Jimmy Williams ('93), Dr. B.L. "Buddy" Shaw ('55/'60), Ginger Wiggins ('86) and Matt Koury ('95).



Editor's Note:

III

Two former Miss Louisiana titleholders have been identified since the last issue of the Alumni Columns Magazine. Rowena Taliaferro Merryman was Miss Louisiana 1950 and Carol Almond was Miss Louisiana 1970. Also, Bonnie Martin Bogue was Miss Louisiana USA in 1970. We apologize for the oversight.



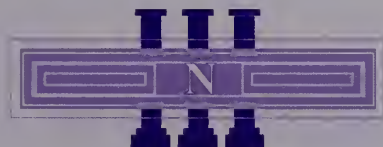
Don ('65) and Georgia ('65) Beasley from Athens, Ga. visited with former coach Walter Ledet ('39) during an alumni reception before the football game in Athens.



Congratulations to Candace Breaux, who celebrated her 100th birthday in August. Breaux graduated from Louisiana Normal School in 1925. She is shown between her sister Irene David and NSU Alumni Board member Allen Horton during her birthday party in Loreauville.



There's strong Northwestern and family bonds between two of the more successful quarterbacks in recent Demon history. Senior quarterback Kevin Magee (No. 9, in uniform) and 1998-99 quarterback Brad Spangler are first cousins. Their mothers are twins. Shown in this picture, taken after the Demons' 21-14 regionally-televised victory at Nicholls State Oct. 24, are (left to right) Brad's parents, Geoff and Judy Spangler, Brad and Kevin, and Kevin's parents, Joann and Joe Magee. The sisters are from Logansport and were Class A All-State co-Most Valuable Players in basketball at Logansport High School before attending NSU. There, they met their husbands. Kevin's oldest brother, Doug, graduated from Northwestern two years ago and his youngest brother, Mark, will attend NSU beginning next fall. Kevin has helped the 2002 Demons reach a No. 3 national ranking heading into the final stages of the regular season schedule. The last time they were ranked as highly, in 1998, Brad was the Demons' quarterback as NSU reached the Division I-AA playoff semifinals and finished with an 11-3 record.



In recognition of the 75th Anniversary of the Alpha Zeta Chapter of Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority, collegiate chapter and the Natchitoches Alumnae Chapter announce the establishment of the Lucile Mertz Hendrick Sigma Sigma Sigma Foundation Scholarship, to be awarded through the Tri Sigma Foundation. Donations for the scholarship endowment may be sent to the chapter or to the Tri Sigma Foundation. Pictured are: (left) Dr. Sue Weaver, Jonelle Wheat, Stephanie McBride, Lucile Hendrick, Misti Chelette, Mary Jean Thomas, Mary Ann Nunnley, Ashlee Crooks, Jacque Crew, and Reatha Cox. Back row: (left) Sarah Zeagler, Melissa Melder, Dawn Wells, Mildred Moore, Michaela Sampite, Sharon Sampite, and Marsha Zulick



1934
Wilma Chandler Leslie is a retired principal and lives in Many.

1939
Pete A. Antie retired as the principal of Melville High School. He is married and lives in Melville.

1941
Melva Ash Mayson Maxey is retired after 34 years of teaching and 12 years as copy editor for a local newspaper. She lives in Lake Charles.

Bobby M. Earnest is retired and lives in Roanoke, Va.

1956
Johnnye Jo Lott has published a book titled "*In the Cold of the Sun: Children in Crisis*". She is married and lives in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

1957
Doris Warren Wilcox Moate is retired and lives in Washington, N.C.

1958
Vernon M. Quaid is retired, married and lives in Hodge.

1960
Phillip Ray Bacilla, Sr. is retired from the Acadia Parish Diocese of Lafayette. He is married and lives in Church Point.

Doyle Z. Williams is the dean at Sam M. Walton College of Business, University of Arkansas. The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) recently awarded him the Gold Medal for Distinguished Service.

1962
Elwood Dyess retired as a principal in the Rapides Parish School System. He lives in Alexandria.

1963
Patricia Ann Evans Crawford retired from Ascension Parish School System as a teacher. She lives in Baton Rouge.

1964
Gwenda S. Dowden McKenzie retired as a program manager from the La. Department of Health and Hospitals. She is married and lives in Baton Rouge.

1965
James Lloyd Gleason is a retired teacher and administrator. He is married and lives in Jerusalem, Ohio.

1966
Carolyn Bingham Sanders is coordinator of hospice volunteers at West Jefferson Medical Center. She is married and lives in Metairie.

Elaine Lacaze Mouser is a homemaker. She is married and lives in Atlanta, Texas.

1967
Kenneth R. Baker is director of human resources at North Monroe Medical Center. He is married and lives in Monroe.

Marcia Dawson Medellin is employed by the Bossier Parish School Board as a teacher. She is married and lives in Shreveport.

1968
Robert E. Townsend is the pastor of Rayville United Methodist Church. He is married to Michele "Mickie" Varnado Townsend ('68) and lives in Rayville.

Michele "Mickie" Varnado Townsend is married to Robert E. Townsend ('68) and lives in Rayville. She is an assistant at Rayville United Methodist Church.



Sandra J. Duett Broussard is employed by the Acadia Parish School Board as a third-grade teacher. She is married and lives in Lake Arthur.

1969

John W. Davidson retired from the Louisiana Department of Revenue as an auditor. He is married and lives in Shreveport.

1972

Dr. Pamela W. Wright Penick is executive director of Arts and Humanities Council of Tuscaloosa. She is married and lives in Northport, Ala.

Colonel (Retired) Henry J. Atwood Jr. is a senior engineer at Redstone Arsenal. He lives in Athens, Ala.

1974

Mike Landry is a teacher at St. Mary's HS in Natchitoches. He is the state sponsor for Beta Club and president of the Louisiana Association for Academic Competition.

1975

Darlene G. Guillot Barnhill is employed by the Bossier Parish School Board as a teacher. She is married and lives in Bossier City.

Anne Wood Searcy is a legal secretary at Crowell and Owens. She lives in Pineville.

Tonna K. Wise Meche is chemistry teacher at Welsh High School. She lives in Welsh.

1976

W. Raymond Dees is the manager of the Cardiac Rehab and Wellness Center at Memorial Medical Center. He is married and lives in Metairie.

1977

Mary Evelene Rachal Hughes is the nursing supervisor at Christus Schumpert - St. Mary's Place. She is married and lives in Shreveport.

Valerie J. Andrews is an assistant professor at Georgia College and State University. She lives in Milledgeville, Ga.

Mary Alice Weber Metzler retired from public health nursing in Ruston, after 25 years of service. She lives in Plano, Texas.

Gary N. Ryals is the program manager at Frankie Friend & Associates, Inc. He is married and lives in Littleton, Colo.

1979

William R. (Randy) Davis is the financial management liaison and an owner of Saxon-Bush-Davis Financial Group, LLC. He is married to Cammie DeBlieux Davis ('79) and lives in Baton Rouge.

Kim M. Barnette Adams is a teacher and coach at Hanson High School. She is married and lives in Franklin.

1980

Terry Ray McCarty is a marketing representative at Atmos Energy Louisiana. He is married and lives in West Monroe.

Micah (Mike) Lynn Knippers is a regional business development manager at ONDEO Nalco Energy Services L.P. He is married and lives in Tennessee Colony, Texas.

Bill Humphreys is self-employed. He is active in the Jersey Shore Jazz and Blues Foundation of the Jersey Shore Area. He is married and lives in Toms River, N.J.

John Bradley Wartelle is the corporate counsel and tax manager at The Moody Company in Lafayette. He is married and lives in Sunset.

1982

R. Lynn Kees is a marketing representative at Allied Solutions. He is married and lives in Coppell, Texas.

1983

Kimberly Gill Turner Story is director of human resources at Millcreek of Ark. She is married and lives in Fordyce, Ark.

Mike M. Robinson is the head strength coach at McNeese State University. He lives in Lake Charles.

1984

Donna S. Littlejohn Moore is the school nurse at Delco Primary School in Pflugerville, Texas. She is married and lives in Round Rock, Texas.

1985

Lizabeth S. Gibbs is a registered nurse and employed by American Nursing Services Agency. She lives in Simsboro.

Sandy Lynn Fortenberry Joiner is a homemaker. She is married and lives in N.C.

1986

Charlotte Broussard Leach is an accountant at Hindsman, Hindsman and Story. She is married and lives in Rainbow City, Ala.

Brenda Washington Ware is a science teacher at Natchitoches Central High School. She is married and lives in Natchitoches.

Melanie R. Richardson Van Ommen is a housewife and lives in Rock Rapids, Iowa.

Jesus E. Rodriguez is a manager at Halliburton Energy Services. He is married and lives in Houston.

Arleatha Gale Eckles is a secretary/receptionist for Desoto Parish Sales & Use Tax Commission. She lives in Mansfield.



III

David Hadden

Class of 1983

1988

Dan Medlin is the human resources manager at Applied Systems Analysis and Processing, Inc. He is married and lives in Austin, Texas.

1989

Hubert Calvin is a network engineer at Southeastern Louisiana University and a pastor. He is married and lives in Amite.

Brian D. Prucey is the pastor at Red River Baptist Church. He is married and lives in Benton.

1990

Shawn A. Bailey is the owner of The Trigger Factor – dba Party Pics SWLA. He is married and lives in Lake Charles.

Glenn Wood is a teacher and coach at North Desoto High School. He lives in Grand Cane.

Rhonda Brooks Goodly is a payroll clerk for the Calcasieu Parish School Board and secretary at Tabernacle of Praise United Pentecostal Church. She is married and lives in Lake Charles.

Karen Elizabeth Barrington is an executive assistant at Powell Petroleum Resources, LLC. She lives in Houston.

Vickie Kay Moses Wilson is an elementary school counselor for Vernon Parish School Board. She is married and lives in Leesville.

1991

Michelle Lynn Weego LaRoche is a fourth grade language arts teacher at Mahanay Elementary. She is married and lives in Katy, Texas.

Darren J. Melancon is the safety manager at Six C Fabrication, Inc. He is married and lives in Winnfield.

Arlicia "Precious" Jenkins is a program analyst for the United States Department of Justice. She lives in Houston.

Sonya Reeder Seaman is a bookkeeper for attorney Charles Seaman.

Joyce Merlinda Glover-Jones Bailey is an office automation clerk at Diamond Elementary. She is married and lives in Hinesville, Ga.

David B. Noles is an attorney. He is married and lives in Bossier.

When he was growing up in Bossier City, David Hadden would often look out his window and see the planes taking off and landing at Barksdale Air Force Base. Now Hadden plays a role in keeping the nation's military aircraft operational.

Hadden is commander of the 509th Munitions Squadron at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri. He is a 1983 business administration graduate.

"The Munitions Squad maintains capability to meet nuclear and conventional B-2 tasks," said Hadden. "The Squad provides safe and reliable upkeep of B-2 stealth bombers so they can destroy targets."

Before assuming command of the 509th Munitions Squadron, Hadden was a maintenance supervisor, then a squadron maintenance officer at Barksdale where he maintained a fleet of 20 B-52 aircraft.

"I grew up around B-52s. I saw the planes every day," said Hadden. "I was fond of the Air Force."

Hadden began his officer career as a Minuteman II ICBM officer at Whiteman. During this tour, he served in a variety of positions including the 510th MIS training and evaluation flight commander.

In 1993, Hadden was assigned to Barksdale where he eventually assumed the duties of squadron maintenance supervisor. In that position, he led 531 personnel in maintaining the largest stockpile of cruise missiles in the Air Force.

He was also selected to serve on the 2nd Bomb Wing commander's staff performing protocol duties. Hadden also was squadron maintenance supervisor at the largest weapons depot in the Department of Defense at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico. He also served as chief of logistics for the 731st Munitions Support Squadron at Araxos Air Force Base in Greece.

While in college, Hadden lived on Second Street with his uncle Charlie Maggio, who was among those responsible for putting up the Christmas lights in Natchitoches each year. Hadden said Maggio influenced his eventual career decision.

"He talked about the military and was instrumental in my deciding to join the military," said Hadden.

As a student, Hadden kept busy. He worked at Maggio's Liquor Store and leased property where he kept horses. Among his fondest memories are those related to the annual State Fair games against Louisiana Tech in Shreveport. He also was influenced by faculty members including Elise James, who taught business and later became NSU's director of alumni affairs.

"I was lucky to have a chance to attend a university like Northwestern," said Hadden. "The city and the university have a family atmosphere. I have traveled around the world and have never seen a place that has the type of bond that exists between Northwestern and Natchitoches. I have been blessed to work with good people wherever I have been around the world." III



1992

Rob Greer is the vice president of product management at C-Based Systems in City of Industry, Calif. He lives in Pasadena, Calif.

Charles Bickley is an airline captain for Delta Airlines. He lives in Lebanon, Ohio.

LeeAnna Price is the manager at the Shreveport Job Corps Center.

Charles Ray Brown is employed by the Dallas Independent School District as a history teacher. He is married to Yolanda Brown ('97) and lives in Garland, Texas.

Malcolm Rene is the executive vice president at Galena Park Schools Community Credit Union. He is married and lives in Humble, Texas.

Elizabeth Louise McDavid Hodges is an attorney at the law firm of Kasowitz, Benson, Torres & Friedman LLP. She is married and lives in Pearland, Texas

1993

Christine Elizabeth Loefstedt Jacobs is a special education teacher at Bay Minette Elementary School. She is married and lives in Saraland, Ala.

Laura Lee Price Carroll is a language and communications instructor at NSU. She is married and lives in Natchitoches.

Bart Stagg is a technical consultant for Accurate Industries of Louisiana. He lives in Pineville.

Kevin David Fayard is a loss control specialist at Enterprise Rent-A-Car. He lives in River Ridge.

Rebecca Joyce Davis Saunders is the supervisor of commercial sales support at Bridgestone/Firestone Tire Sales Company. She is married to Jason Saunders ('95) and lives in Dickson, Tenn.

Roland LaComb is employed by Jefferson Davis Parish School Board as head basketball coach and special education teacher. He is married to Amanda Ridley Lacombe ('92) and lives in Elton.

Harlan Hughes is a financial advisor for Morgan Stanley. He lives in Bossier City.

Shane Abernathy is a financial consultant at Investment Professionals, Inc. He lives in San Antonio, Texas.

Kevin Lee Tison is a choral director at Laguna Hills High School and music pastor at Laguna Hills Evangelical Free Church. He lives in Mission Viejo, Calif.

1994

Marvin Dorsey is a Pastoral Care Associate at FBC Woodstock. He lives in Kennesaw, Ga.

Keri Vincent Stevenson is a registered nurse at Willis Knighton South. She is married and lives in Shreveport.

Alana Mack Bishop is an Associate 3 to a Psychologist at Jetson Correctional Center for Youth. She is married to Robert M. Bishop ('95) and lives in Port Vincent.

Bill Klamfoth is an administrator at Richardson Medical Center. He lives in West Monroe.

Ray Hernandez is the regional account representative at Home Depot - Maintenance Warehouse. He is married and lives in Shreveport.

Kimberly Paul works in Small Business Sales at Bell South. She lives in Shreveport.

Edwina M. Cedars Hayward is a case management social worker at Natchitoches Parish Hospital. She is married and lives in Natchitoches.

Mari Carmen Cintron is president of Latino Resources Network. She is married and lives in Haverhill, Mass.

Laurie Ann Coco Moreau is a controller at Bank of West Baton Rouge. She is married and lives in Port Allen.

1995

Shelisa Theus is a graduate teaching assistant at LSU and an English tutor at Endeavor Learning Center in Baton Rouge.

Laura Davis Hargis is a kindergarten teacher at Avoyelles Charter School. She is married and lives in Vick.

Jason Robert Saunders is an inmate job coordinator at DeBerry Special Needs Facility. He is married to Rebecca Saunders ('93) and lives in Dickson, Tenn.

Eve Cox King is a first grade teacher at Fairfield Elementary Magnet School. She lives in Shreveport.

Jessica Shirley Whitton is an assistant professor in the college of nursing at NSU. She is married and lives in Shreveport.

Keith Moore Jr. is a professional representative at Merck Co. Inc. He lives in Panama, Fla.

Karen Benefield Germany is employed by Boy Scouts of America as the assistant to the circulation director. She is married and lives in Richland Hills, Texas.

Linda Ann Singler Holyfield is CEO at Physicians and Surgeons Surgical Hospital. She is married and lives in Monroe.

1996

Christopher Brent Stewart is a helicopter pilot in the U.S. Army. He is married and lives in Fort Polk.

Kimberly Kennedy Smith is a second grade teacher for the Keller Independent School District. She is married and lives in Denton, Texas.

Eric Cerwonka is a Post Doctoral Fellow at Columbia University. He lives in New York.

1997

Cheryl J. Reiszner Britt is attending Virginia Commonwealth University to complete her master's degree in social work. She is married and lives in Alexandria, Va.



Christopher Corey Conway is employed by Carthage Independent School District as a band director. He is married and lives in Carthage, Texas.

Yolanda Elaine Johnson Brown is a revenue analyst at Affiliated Computer Services. She is married to Charles R. Brown ('88) and lives in Garland, Texas.

Therese Darlene Turnage is employed by the Rapides Parish School Board as a teacher. She lives in Boyce.

Matthew Mularoni is in the United States Army. He is stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Carla Hallock is an MFA candidate in acting and instructor at Purdue University. She lives in Lafayette, Ind.

Dennis Mitchell is a pilot for Expressjet Airlines. He lives in Lafayette.

Amy R. Williams is assistant director of career services at Georgia Southern University. She lives in Statesboro, Ga.

Janice Grace Vazquez Hardesty is a graphic designer and art director at Century Business Communications. She is married and lives in Grand Cane.

Dietrua Kristina Lealand is employed at Gwineth Hospital System and lives in Lawrenceville, Ga.

1998

John Robert Black is a preacher at Grassy Lick United Methodist Church. He is married to Jennifer Black ('00) and lives in Mt. Sterling, Ky.

Damon Cornell Booth is a youth care worker at Ozanam. He lives in Kansas City, Mo.

Thomas Francis Sullivan is the director of sports, fitness and recreation at the Boys and Girls of Greater Dubuque. He is married and lives in Dubuque, Iowa.

Leslie Garnette Green is a business and technology teacher at Port Allen High School and communications assistant at Hamilton Relay. She lives in Baton Rouge.

Emma J. Deshotels is a lab technician. She lives in Minden.

Sherry Kay Verdel Browning is a graduate student at the College of William and Mary. She is married and lives in Williamsburg, Va.

Christopher Dew is the minister of music at New Life Tabernacle. He is married and lives in Beaumont, Texas.

Brandi Poche' Taylor works in cytogenetics at Women and Infants Hospital in Providence, R.I. She is married and lives in Pawtucket, R.I.

Kelly A. Patrick is senior systems analyst at Provider Healthnet Services. She lives in Baton Rouge.

Jason Brown recently graduated from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor with a Ph.D. in chemistry and philosophy. He is married to Sharissa Roberson Brown ('00).

Edward Arthur Mayfield is a registered nurse at Natchitoches Parish Hospital. He is married and lives in Shreveport.

Brandi Nichole Brammer is a talent agent for Creative Artists Agency in Beverly Hills. She lives in Studio City, Calif.

1999

Amy Lynn Felder Jarreau is an elementary teacher for the Pointe Coupee Parish School Board. She lives in Baton Rouge.

Marie "Eugenie" Duhon Mitchell is the business travel/corporate sales manager at Hotel Acadian. She lives in Broussard.

Marla Michelle Sawrie Swearengen is a teacher at The Woodlands High School. She is married and lives in The Woodlands, Texas.

Jennifer Marie Fabre is a physical therapist at Healthsouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Baton Rouge.

Jonathan David Endsley is vice president of Texas Sales at Industrial Supply and Service Inc. He is married and lives in Plano, Texas.

Jeremiah Clift is a network engineer at Geographic Technologies. He lives in Cambridge, Mass.

Joanna Terry Bradford is a social services director at Alpine Guestcare Center in Ruston.

Steve Douglas Johnson is a sales representative for Liberty Mutual. He lives in Austin, Texas.

Kimberly R. Brewer is District Manager for The Cato Corporation. She lives in D'Iberville, Miss.

Donna Patrice Wimmer Kaminsky is a social worker for FMC Natchitoches Dialysis. She is married and lives in Natchitoches.

2000

Laura Elizabeth Finn is attending the LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans.

Nancy Deloris Bethea Hatchett is a registered nurse at Marlboro Park Hospital. She is married and lives in Bennettsville, S.C.

Deborah Kay Moody is the manager at Finance America in Winnfield.

Angelique Renee Duhon is a third year law student at LSU Law Center. She lives in Baton Rouge.

David Dwight Morgan Jr. is the district manager for Association Member Benefits Advisors. He is married to Leslie Morgan ('01) and lives in Parker, Colo.

Melissa Lynnette Smith Lawrence is the administrative assistant to Tribal Council at Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of La. She lives in Jena.



Lana Elizabeth Breland Craig is a staff accountant at KALB-TV5. She is married and lives in Jena.

Allison Lanelle Con Mayfield is a graduate student. She is married and lives in Shreveport.

Jeffrey Montegut is a sales representative for The Berry Company. He is married to Sybil Slatkin Montegut ('00) and lives in LaPlace.

Sybil Slatkin Montegut is a senior accountant for Ericksen, Krentel and Laporte. She is married to Jeffrey Montegut ('00) and lives in LaPlace.

Ashley Elizabeth Beason Wright is an advertising executive at Louisiana Directories. She is married and lives in Shreveport.

2001

Brenton Lamar Carpenter is a teacher and football and basketball coach at Jonesboro-Hodge Jr. High School. He is married to Melissa Zingaro Carpenter ('99) and lives in Jonesboro.

Stephanie Denise Davies is employed at Autumn Leaves Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center. She lives in Winnfield.

Marilynn Marie Womack Knorr is a registered nurse at Sentara Hampton General Hospital. She is married and lives in Fort. Eustis, Va.

Jamila Nailah Anderson is a quality assurance chemist at Cargill Oilseeds, Inc. She lives in Wichita, Kan.

Anthony Milner is employed by Red River Parish School board as a social studies teacher and baseball coach. He is married to Brenda Fowler Milner ('85) and lives in Natchitoches.

Joshua Joseph Handorf is a medical platoon leader in the U.S. Army. He is married to Shaunna K. Smith Handorf ('02) and lives in Hinesville, Ga.

Tamara Ruth Womack Clements is a registered nurse at Willis Knighton Health System. She is married to Vincent Clements ('01) and lives in Bossier City.

Katie Summerell Bernard is a sales manager at Cypress Bend Golf Resort Conference Center. She is married to Brandon Bernard ('99) and lives in Natchitoches.

Sherri Lynn Pierson is a management trainee at City Bank and Trust Company. She lives in Natchitoches.

April Michelle Albritton is a graduate student at Radford University. She lives in Radford, Va.

Craig Ryan is the street promotions director at Apex Broadcasting. He lives in Lake Charles.

Shawn Wayne Byles is a reservation agent at Four Seasons Resort and Club. He lives in Irving, Texas.

Bradley Mark Tyler is an auditor and deputy collector for Desoto Parish Sales & Use Tax Commission.

Jamie DeAnna Murray McGowan is a Sales/CSR at State Farm Insurance. She is married to Joseph M. McGowan ('01) and lives in Baton Rouge.

Cherry Deanne Parker is a teacher at Winnfield Primary School. She lives in Sikes.

Kendrick Jermaine Turner is an assistant manager at Walgreens. He lives in Lake Charles.

Jamie McDougal is an accounting clerk at Lewis Operating Corporation. She lives in Upland, Calif.

2002

Jerrod Cane Guin is a graduate student at Southeastern State University. He is married to Mary Francis Guin ('01) and lives in Baton Rouge.



In Memory

Thomas F. Buckley

Eugenia Bergeron, Livonia, January, 10, 2002.

Vera Jones Davis, Winnsboro, August 13, 2002

Mildred O'Bier Burns, Shongaloo, September 10, 2002

Marguerite A. Castleberry, Lake Charles, September 9, 2002

'17 Lois B. Campbell, Jonesville, July 21, 2002

'22 Mae Pitchford Courtney, Bossier City.

'28 Alice Muse Coffey Gibson, Shreveport, September 22, 2002

'42 Ernest S. Wright, Alabama, January 24, 2002

'46 Peggy Myers Meredith Brady, Jonesboro, September 29, 2002

'58 Billie Wayne Johnson, Dequincy, March 17, 2002

'66 James S. Crawford, Baton Rouge, March 1, 2000

'68 Elise Pierson James, Natchitoches, November 12, 2002

'71 John Wayne Odom, Natchitoches, July 12, 2002

Alumni Information Update

Please fill this page out as completely as possible. We are constantly revising our records and your information updates are vital to making the system work. The information from this form is also used for entries in the "Class Notes" section. Please make a copy of this page and give it to any NSU graduate who may not be on our list. We can't keep in touch with you if we can't find you! Thank you.

Date _____ SSN: _____

Name: (Miss, Mrs. Mr.) _____
Please Circle Last First Middle Maiden

Current address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

NSU undergraduate degree(s): _____ Year of graduation: _____

NSU graduate degree(s): _____ Year of graduation: _____

During which years did you attend NSU? _____

Which organizations were you involved in while a student at NSU? _____

Place of employment _____

Job title: _____ Work phone: _____

Spouse's name: _____

Is your spouse an NSU graduate? ____ Yes ____ No

If yes, what degree(s) did he / she earn?

Spouse's undergraduate degree (s) _____ Year of graduation _____

Spouse's graduate degree (s) _____ Year of graduation _____

Do you have children who are potential Northwestern students? Please tell us their names, contact information, and what high school they attend.

Please return to: Alumni Center • Northwestern State University • Natchitoches, LA 71497

If you would like information from Admissions, Financial Aid or the NSU Athletic Association, you can contact them at the following address:

Director of Admissions
Northwestern
State University
Room 103, Roy Hall
Natchitoches, LA 71497
(318) 357-4503
800-426-3754 (Louisiana)
800-327-1903 (out of state)

Director of Financial Aid
Northwestern
State University
Room 109, Roy Hall
Natchitoches, LA 71497
(318) 357-5961

Athletic Director
Northwestern
State University
Room 101C
Athletic Fieldhouse
Natchitoches, LA 71497
(318) 357-5251

Homecoming gets a surprise visitor

The homecoming queen at Northwestern didn't mind sharing the spotlight with the queen of daytime talk.

Talk show host Oprah Winfrey made a surprise appearance in Natchitoches and rode in NSU's homecoming parade, then spoke at the school's pep rally.

Winfrey came to Natchitoches to surprise local resident Peggy Plunkett, who was in the audience at "The Oprah Winfrey Show" in early October. At the end of the show, Plunkett invited Winfrey to visit.

"She stood up and said 'Oprah, everybody in Natchitoches loves you. You should come and visit,'" said Winfrey. "I said I can't believe there's a town where everybody loves me. It's not often you come to visit a friend and get a parade. Only in Natchitoches.

"I told Peggy if I came and went to any part of town, she would have to swear that no one would be watching Jerry Springer. Well, I haven't seen anyone watching it."

Winfrey led the parade through the Northwestern campus, down Front Street and onto the Downtown Riverbank along Cane River where several hundred people were waiting. The parade included the 20 members of the Homecoming Honor Court and floats designed by campus organizations.

"I heard she was coming, but I didn't believe it until I saw her," said Laci Stokes of Natchitoches, who was the 2002 Homecoming Queen at NSU. "It was amazing. We all got to meet her and she was so nice. She told us that she didn't want to rain on our parade."

Winfrey came to Natchitoches unannounced. She flew into Natchitoches Regional Airport, had lunch at a local restaurant and visited the NSU campus and several Front Street businesses. Winfrey left from the airport after speaking at the pep rally.

"I'm going to tell people all over the U.S. about the spirit of the people here," said Winfrey.

Winfrey's visit added an extra spark to Northwestern's homecoming activities.

"I was going to be at the parade to support my (sorority) sister, Dymphna Davis, but Oprah here was great," said Tenecia McGrew, a senior biology major from Shreveport. "This made everything really special."



Talk show host Oprah Winfrey visited the NSU campus during her whirlwind trip to Natchitoches, taking time to stop by the President's Home. Shown are (from left): Natchitoches Mayor Wayne McCullen, Sandra McCullen, Winfrey, Brenda Webb and Northwestern State President Dr. Randall J. Webb.

Before she left, Oprah added some encouragement to the NSU football team and it might have helped the Demons roll to a 38-0 win over Southwestern Oklahoma.

"Good luck to the Demons. Y'all go out and kick some tail," said Winfrey.

Northwestern State president Randall J. Webb said meeting Winfrey was a pleasure for him.

"Her visit made this the best homecoming in Northwestern history," said Webb. "She is such a warm, wonderful person. You could tell she had fun meeting the people of Natchitoches and taking part in the parade."

A segment on her visit aired on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" in early November.

Winfrey's visit brought national attention to Natchitoches and Northwestern. The story was picked up by the Associated Press and ran in papers in New York, Atlanta, Austin, Sacramento and more. III

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